

Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)
February 2011 vol.8 Issue 2



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Office of Public Affairs
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LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
ELECTION BOARD
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Certified Slate of Candidates for Primary for 2011 Regular Election

Office of Tribal Council – At-Large

Loretta J. Beccaria
Cindy Champagne

Kimberly M. Alexander
Shannon Paul Crampton

Office of Tribal Council – 9-County

Jeff Battice
Gary Paul DiPiazza
Rita Annette Gale
Karen Love
Patricia “Pat” Ruiter
Peggy J. Vriesman

Michael J. Ceplina
Jamie L. Friedel
Sandy Mezeske
Joseph Riley, Sr.
Edward Tyler
Bob J. Whiteloon

Certified Slate of Candidates for February 11, 2011 Special Election

Office of Election Board (2 year Term)

Carol Gibner
Corey Anthony Wells

Certified Slate of Candidates for 2011 General Election

Office of Tribal Ogema

Larry “Little Thunder” Romanelli
Janine M. Sam

Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge

Berni L. Carlson
Bill Willis

Kimberly Crampton (Kequom)

Office of Election Board

Tammy S. Bowen
Tracy Frees

Cross Deputization – Finally

After years of dispute and disagreement, the LRBOI and the Manistee Sheriff have finally agreed to cross-deputize Tribal Police Officers (see page 2 for details)



Tribal and Union Historic Agreement



The Little River Casino Resort and the United Steel Workers have reached a historic agreement based on tribal law!



Aanii,
I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season. I look forward to 2011 although last year seemed to race by.

On December 9th and 10th, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hosted our brothers and sisters from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation out of Canada. This meeting of the two nations was a result of months of planning from our Historical Preservation Department, Director Jay Sam, Kenny Pheasant, who is a citizen of that Nation, Terry Raczkowski, Mack Brushman and others. The "Wiki" tribe brought 11 representatives and much information was exchanged. More information on following pages. I appreciated the interaction and discussions with their citizens and leaders.

On December 15th and 16th, I had the opportunity to attend the Second Annual White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington D.C. President Obama spoke to representatives from over 300 tribal Nations at the Department of Interior Building. Two main highlights that

were announced were that the President supports the restoration of the Department of Interior taking land in trust for Tribes and is asking for a quick Carcieri fix which stopped that ability. The President also made the historic announcement that the U.S. will now join three other nations in giving support for the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This support gives recognition to our tribal sovereignty among other things. Again, more information will follow.

In the last half of December, two controversial agreements were signed by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. First, LRBOI and the Manistee Sheriff's Department signed a Cross Deputization Agreement. LRBOI was the only Tribe in Michigan not to have a cross dep agreement in place. This agreement will provide protection for our citizens and law enforcement officers of both parties. LRBOI also signed a collective bargaining agreement with the United Steel Workers after months of negotiations. The agreement is one of the first of its kind in the Nation and follows our Tribal Law. There will be much written on this for some time.



I wish all of you the best of luck in the new year. Until next month...

REMEMBER... LIFE IS NOT ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORM TO PASS, IT IS ABOUT LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN.

Tribal Officers Deputized – Finally!

"Seamless Law Enforcement" was one of the phrases that kept coming up during negotiations as the Ogema's office and staff worked toward accomplishing cross-deputization with the Manistee County Sheriff, Dale Kowalkowski. The negotiations were concluded early in the month and with the authorization of Tribal Council, Ogema Larry Romanelli signed the agreement with Kowalkowski on December 20th.

In a ceremony at the Ogema's office, the two elected leaders brought to a close a controversial topic that had made officers' jobs more difficult and been a source of contention for a number of years. Also present for the historic event were Tribal Public Safety Lt. David DeForest, Executive Legal Counsel Dan Green and tribal Prosecutor Gene Zeller. Council member Virgil Johnson attended and represented Council at the event. Council was on recess at the time.

Without the cross-deputization of the local sheriff, Tribal Public Safety Officers could only enforce the rule of law upon tribal members and not upon



non-tribal citizens. Even though the officers were fully trained and quite capable of enforcing the law, without this cross-deputization, they could only hold non-tribal offenders for other agencies to process, such as the Michigan State Police and the County Sheriff's office.

Cross-Deputizing our tribal officers means that they will be operating under the authority of the County Sheriff (as 'deputies') in enforcing the law on non-tribal individuals and will continue their

legal enforcement duties of tribal citizens under the laws of our sovereign tribal nation. The authority is for specific tribal lands such as the casino, housing area, Trading Post and Gathering Grounds.

Ogema Romanelli said that, "The primary reason for me (for this agreement) is safety; safety of citizens and officers of both nations. It also will be beneficial in coordinating efforts with other agencies in emergency management now that our casino has been (officially) designated as an emergency shelter."

Lt. DeForest agreed and stated, "This will provide not only improved safety for the community at large, but also for all officers." He added that this agreement will bring about seamless law enforcement that will provide for more efficient handling of cases for everyone.

*Photo taken by:
Martha Howell
Currents staff*

Recorder's Report to Membership- Jan 2011

Tribal Council Overrides Ogema Veto of Adoption of FY 2011 Tribal Government Budget

During the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year, the Tribal Council took an action on the submission of the FY 2011 Government Operations budget, to adopt the budget with amendments. The Final Budget Submission by Ogema Romanelli, as Membership may recall, included allocations for several new positions. Since the last Recorder's Report, the Little River Casino and Resort had re-submitted new numbers, reducing the amount of Gaming Revenue that will be transferred to the Tribal Government during FY 2011. Original projections included just over \$32 Million to be generated for government operations. Revised projections lowered that number to just over \$29 Million, with approximately a \$3 Million reduction. When the Ogema received this information, he proposed a new Final Budget Submission.

The Final Budget Submission was taken on the Open Agenda of the December 15, 2010, Tribal Council meeting. When the Tribal Council adopted Resolution #10-1215-428, the Council also enacted the following changes to the Ogema's Budget Submission:

Program Name: Restructuring Initiative,

Budget Line #5202 – Tribal Activities – Remove all funding (\$210,541) and references related to the line item.

Program Name: Pharmacy/Dental/Fitness,

Budget Line #6100 – Capital Outlay – Remove all funding (\$172,210) and references related to the line item.

Program Name: Ogema, Program #1010-102

Budget Lines #5100 to #5130 – Salaries and Fringe Benefits – Add/reinstate the position of Tribal Manager at \$120,000 in salary and fringe benefits.

Program Name: Ogema, Program #1010-102

Budget Lines #5100 – Salaries – Return the salary of the Executive Administrative Assistant to its 2010 amount.

By enacting those specific line item changes, the Ogema was then in position to either approve or deny (veto) the amendments proposed by Tribal Council. The Ogema chose to veto the Action of Tribal Council, which resulted in the Speaker calling an Emergency Meeting on December 23, 2010. The only item on the agenda was the consideration

of Overriding the Ogema's disapproval of the FY 2011 Government Operations Budget. The Tribal Council then enacted Resolution #10-1223-429, overriding the Ogema's disapproval (veto). The Tribal Council directed that the new budget as amended be prepared as directed by the previous action. In doing so, the Tribal Council prevented any negative impact to the membership by avoiding a potential Government shut down at the beginning of the next Fiscal Year, due to lack of appropriations. Unlike the State or Federal Government who routinely experience 'gridlock' and do little to address the issue, the Tribal Council moved quickly to resolve this matter before any negative repercussions resulted to individual tribal members that are either employed by the Tribe, or receiving benefit programs through the Tribe.

The major changes to the budget were removing funding from the Restructuring Initiative and the Pharmacy/Dental/Fitness areas. The Tribal Council took that action for a number of reasons, but primarily because there was no plan in place to define how those dollars would be used. They were broad allocations of funding for new positions and expenses, without additional supporting documentation to justify the added costs.

Restructuring Initiative – New Administrative Positions Omitted

In an effort to compromise with the Ogema, who has repeatedly requested new high level administration positions, the Tribal Council did include an allocation of salary and fringe benefits

to hire a position of Tribal Manager. When the Ogema vetoed this action, he had provided a written 2 page statement regarding his reason for disapproval of the amendments to the FY 2011 Budget-excerpted below:

"I disagree with taking out the Restructuring Initiative funding which eliminates the two key positions that are desperately needed in the Executive Branch of Government."

The Ogema had articulated other reasons, which are on Record with the Tribal Council. The Ogema also voiced that he had concerns with the adding of the Tribal Manager position. The Recorder notes that the reduction in costs is the \$210,541 shown above. By taking the Action to Override, in accordance with the Constitution, the Tribal Council has enacted the FY 2011 Budget, without any interruption to the Government Operations.

New Legislation Moving Forward

The Tribal Council expects to receive notice during the first week of January that the National Indian Gaming Association has approved the revisions to the Gaming Ordinance. If you recall, the Council had proposed amendments to this Ordinance in an effort to create additional licensure categories, in an effort to increase employment opportunities for Tribal Members at Little River Casino and Resort. It is expected that the new Ordinance will receive final action during the second or third week of January.

Commissions and Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees or commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office indicating which committee/commission you are interested in.

Commerce Commission
Gaming Commission
Housing Commission
Binojeeuk Commission
Enrollment Commission
Health Commission
Natural Resource Commission.

In addition to the Gaming Ordinance Amendments, the Tribal Council has finished drafts of the Office of Tribal Prosecutor Ordinance, Indian Preference Ordinance, and Certificate of Rehabilitation (Clemency) Ordinance, which will be posted for public comment during the month of January. Final action on these laws is slated to happen in February. The Certificate of Rehabilitation (Clemency) Ordinance is a new law that will enable Tribal Members that are not eligible to receive licenses in the gaming operation to apply for a special consideration. Under specific circumstances, if granted the special consideration by the Gaming Commission, a member that might otherwise be disqualified will be able to be employed at the Little River Casino and Resort. The Recorder encourages Membership to review the Tribal Council's webpage for the public comment posting, to provide input on these new laws prior to adoption.

The Tribal Council is very excited that these four new pieces of legislation are now completed to the point of adoption, and will be moving forward in upcoming weeks.

Cross Deputation Agreement Ratified

The Tribal Council ratified the cross deputization agreement with the Manistee County Sheriff during its last meeting of the year. This agreement provides for enhanced public safety, protects Tribal Officers in the event that they have to effect arrest of a non-tribal member on tribal lands near the Casino or Aki Maadiziwin Housing area, and allows the Sheriff's deputies to assist Tribal Officers on Trust lands when necessary. This agreement was publicly announced by the Manistee County Sheriff and Little River Public Affairs Office during the month of December.

See Article Page2

Tribal Council Establishes Meeting Schedule for FY 2011

The Tribal Council adopted its meeting schedule as follows:

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

TRIBAL COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2011

Regular Tribal Council Meetings have been established for every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Departmental Reports and Minutes of various entities of the Tribe will be accepted during the third meeting of each month.

ALL REGULAR MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD AT THE LITTLE RIVER BAND DOME ROOM

January 5	May 4	September 7
January 12	May 11	September 14
January 19	May 18	September 28
January 26	May 25	

February 2	June 1	October 5
February 9	June 8	October 12
February 16	June 15	October 19
February 23	June 22	October 26

March 2	July 6	November 2
March 9	July 13	November 9
March 16	July 20	November 16
March 23	July 27	November 30
March 30		

April 6	August 3	December 7
April 13	August 10	December 14
April 20	August 17	December 21
	August 24	

Legislative Recesses Scheduled for FY 2011

In addition to the regular meeting schedule, the Tribal Council set their FY 2011 Legislative Recesses as follows:

April 25, 2011 through April 29, 2011 and
June 27, 2011 through July 1, 2011 and
August 29, 2011, through September 2, 2011

These are the weeks that the Tribal Council will not be in the Office in the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janine M. Sam
Recorder

Tribal Council Meeting Report – December 2010

My sincerest apologies to the Membership, my usual report format was not available for this publication. The Tribal Council had a short month, due to the Legislative Recess. There were 9 work sessions, but the subject matter was very complex. In addition to multiple meetings regarding the FY 2011 Budget, the Council met regarding the Cross Deputization Agreement with the Manistee County Sheriff's Department, and the Little River Casino and Resort FY 2011 Budget and Annual Plan.

"For the 2011 Election, Tribal Council, Judicial and Election Board candidates were all offered free space in the Currents so they could conveniently convey their message to the Tribal Citizens. Each was offered space for either 300 words or 200 words with a picture. For the Tribal Ogema candidates, they were offered 600 words or 500 words with a picture.

Each candidate was also given the opportunity to answer two questions from the Election Board.

1) "What are your qualifications for the office you seek?" and 2), "Why do you want to be elected?"

Following are the statements of candidates who chose to submit for the upcoming 2011 Tribal Election."

Larry "Little Thunder" Romanelli



Aanii,

It 's been an honor to serve as your Ogema for the past 3 ½ years. Miigwetch for the opportunity.

I believe we have made significant progress but still have much work to do. We weathered the 2008 collapse of the US economy and are doing very well with our businesses. I will provide a list of accomplishments during my term of office to date. Please keep in mind that while these accomplishments were under my term of office, it was also the hard work of many dedicated employees that made these happen.

- 2007, we finalized the renegotiation of the Inland Consent Decree of 1836 with the State of Michigan.
- Renegotiated our Compact with the State of Michigan and settled Club Keno Lawsuit, reducing our payments from 8% down to 6% with approximate savings of between \$1-2 million per year. We also extended our Compact due to end next year, to the year 2028.
- Constructed and opened our Little River Trading Post Gas Station/C-Store.
- Completed expansion of the Little River Casino/Hotel.
- Constructed new Community Center near Aki with limited money and grants.
- In 3 years built many new houses almost doubling the number of previous 10 years.
- House of Flavors was losing money monthly; by leasing the building we are now making money plus providing offices for some of our departments.
- Purchased Great Lakes Downs property in Muskegon for second site casino.
- Lease of Cold Stone Creamery in the Casino as a profitable business venture.
- Began work toward a new government complex.
- Signed compact to have our Health Department become self-governance.
- Spent down hundreds of thousands of grant dollars going back almost a decade.
- Recently remodeled our Muskegon Office to expand services out of our Muskegon Office within 90 days.
- Currently President of United Tribes of Michigan taking over from Saginaw Chippewa Band.
- Started Bingo at Casino within past 6 months.
- Supported and encouraged efforts to change quorum requirements. Election Board made changes to have citizens register to vote. When I took office, approximately 1,200 persons needed to attend Membership Meetings to achieve a quorum which was basically impossible with an average of 200-300 attending; at the last Membership Meeting we only needed 215 citizens to achieve a quorum and were only 12 citizens short.
- Over two years ago, I voluntarily gave permission to submit my name for random drug testing and since, have been tested. I have continually encouraged mandatory drug testing for all elected officials.
- Voluntarily submitted I-Chat background check on me, and submitted FICO scores for any tribal citizen to view. Information is and has been with Mary Thomas, for over two years.
- I voluntarily use computer time clock and sign in and out daily.
- I regularly work 40+ hours per week at the bank building; average day starts before 8 AM and ends after 6PM plus additional hours at home plus weekends
- Regularly attend meetings of the Council; Ogema/ Council meetings; Membership Meetings; Elder's Meetings.

I look forward to continuing to move this Tribe forward with your vote. Again, Miigwetch.

Janine M. Sam



Boozhoo!

I have served you as a member of Tribal Council for nearly a decade. I have had direct involvement in every aspect of our Tribal Government, providing me the expertise and skills necessary to be your next Manager and Leader.

I do not intend to make any changes to the Per Capita, unless it is something the People want.

I believe the People of Little River Band have lost their voice. The “power struggle” between the current Ogema and Tribal Council has resulted in lost opportunities, including in my opinion, the future developments of the Tribe, and expansion of services into our southern counties. Even, recently, potentially compromising our financing activities on the current debt of the Tribe-this cannot go on any longer.

I believe that the Tribe cannot continue with a “division” between the Ogema and Council. We KNOW that division does not work, and does not bring good government. If you elect me to serve as your next Ogema (Kwe), my top priorities are:

1. Work with Council, Staff, Casino Staff or anyone else I need to-as your Leader, I don’t have the right to squander your opportunities or resources.
2. I will not file suit against your Tribal Council to settle disputes-I pledge to work and negotiate WITH the Council to move things forward for YOU in a good way. It is the Chief’s job, after all, to be a negotiator on behalf of the people, internally as well as externally.
3. Work to “right size” the Tribal Government and its staff, to ensure that Membership needs are served-I will not argue for positions that aren’t necessary, or increase government spending by hundreds of thousands of dollars-with no other explanation than “I’m too busy.”
4. ENFORCE tribal preference laws to the fullest extent, so that all members can benefit equally from the employment opportunities within the Band.
5. I commit to bringing the Traditional Components of Leadership back to the Seat of Ogema. Our Grandfather Teachings are not just words on a plaque, they are our way of life.

In upcoming months, I will be holding Open Houses in Manistee, Muskegon and Wisconsin, and other locations, so that you can meet me & my family, hear from me first-hand how I intend to reduce unnecessary spending, how I intend to propose real change to restructure and right size your government, and how I will serve you in Honesty and Humility.

Many of you know me personally, know that I have worked for YOU, no matter where you live, or what family you belong to. I pledge that if you elect me as your next Ogema (Kwe), I will work with the same diligence and respect that you have the right to expect of me, for the next four years. Placing the needs of our Elders, the future of our Children, and all Citizens at the heart of every decision that I make. I appreciate your support.

Kchii-Miigwetch,

“The deadline for voter registration for the Primary was December 17th, 2010 and is March 4th, 2011 for the General Election. You must be registered to participate in the election.”

Jeff Battice Sr.

Hello,

My name is Jeff Battice Sr. I would like to try to help our people. I am not stepping forward for power of money. I do not have any personal vendetta's of coming down on or firing anyone should I make office. We are a sacred people who have through a lot. Many wanted to see our circle look like a sacred hoop; they have left us to walk the hanging trail. Many watched their own family circles break up and disintegrating. Children forgetting or not knowing who they are and walking away! This troubles me greatly. I was once a trader who ran the fire trail for two decades.

I personally know the honor of our vets, children, elders, and our people, I do not know what happened, but it happened. We slowly became the outside world toward each other. Not all, but many. I refuse to make a lie to any of you with the ink.

That would bring a great shame upon my head, not worthy of speaking! My heart is heavy as I have seen much. What are my goals and qualifications!

I don't like those words! They sound like herding cattle into a pen for head count. We all know where we need to go; we just don't seem to get there. As a council member I would be your servant, the people will not be mine. I will take no chair to step on any of our people. Power brings arrogance and the mind and heart forgets the intent and falls quickly from where it started. Helping our people's my goal! I read write and understand well, the people will decided if I am qualified when they vote! It's about you, not me!

Jeff

Michael J. Ceplina



Aanii

My name is Michael J. Ceplina. I came to work for the tribe in 2002. I've been a security officer and utility operator. My current jobs are a surveillance operator and natural resource commissioner. I believe in a strong work ethic which means coming to work and doing the job that you get paid for. As a natural resource commissioner I have worked for tribal treaty rights to harvest on federal and state lands. Here are some of the things that I would like to work on if elected to tribal council.

- Help the Muskegon casino project become a reality.
- To make our tribal lands more accessible for our elders & disabled members who wish to harvest.
- Education. College isn't for everyone. I would like to see some sort of vocational training or a work program at the casino/tribe for our young people.

Remember to get out and vote because your vote can make a difference.

Miigwetch

Michael J. Ceplina

Gary Paul DiPiazza



I'm qualified for the 9 counties seat , for being retired, I can devote endless Quality time to tribal issues at all times to bring our citizens concerns to light and act upon them with great success. Be there to answer your questions and concerns at all times For I believe beening married 28 years living in the same dwelling for 26 years shows my stability and drive. Have been working all my life since the age of 10 with honesty, respect, integrity , loyalty and have never given up on any task at hand

I'm drug-free and don't drink

I would be honored to serve our citizens as an elected official can bring a lot of my life and business skills to move us in a better direction. The roots we have are rich with culture, that need to be passed to our young for they are our future

My traditional name is (Sees-Bak-Tunse)

Feel free to call me 1-616-450-3928

e-mail teedy3@comcat.net at any time.

visit my website www.sightowl.com/garydipiazza/

facebook at VOTE Gary DiPiazza

Miig- Wetch

Jamie L. Friedel



Hello,

I would like to introduce myself to you the voters for the Tribe. My name is Jamie Friedel. I am the general manager for Little River Trading Post every since we opened the doors in 2008. I moved here to work for our Tribe and to make a difference and that is what I have done. Now I would like your support as I run for the 9 county seat on council. I do believe good things will happen when you get the right voters on council.

I don't want to promise you anything I can't deliver but I will say I will vote for you not for my personal feelings. With the Right people in place our Tribe can step forward and impact our future. I will stand before everyone and still be able to look you in the eye and know I have done the best I can for our Tribe. As your representative on council I can promise you I will be at work everyday and I will make every decision based on how it will impact you as a member. I will be one vote but I will make sure it's the best vote for you.

Thank you for your time.

If you would like to contact me please feel free to do so. 231-887-4051

Jamie Friedel



Rita Gale



Boozhoo to all tribal members,

I am a married Native American member of the L.R.B.O.I. born and raised in Muskegon.

In the past I have owned and operated a very successful trucking and excavating service. I was the supervisor of the employees, organizer, bookkeeper, bid on many jobs we performed, and conversed to many people in a professional manner and with utmost respect.

I was in business for 25 years.

I worked at Wolf Lake school for teachers and helped children that needed special help with reading.

I worked for several elders in their homes as caregiver and worked for the Tribal Elders Committee, catering dinners at the old community center; and am currently working at Aki for tribal elders meals on wheels program in Manistee.

I believe I can make a difference and create change that is desperately needed for our people.

I promise to bring your issues to the table, to be discussed before council.

Contact me anytime,

My personal cell (231) 750-5581

Please Help me- help you

Vote Rita Annette Gale for Tribal Council Seat -9 County

The Better Choice

Karen Love

I have a Bachelors Degree in Business. Retired from the Dept. of Corrections with 28 years of state service as a Unit Manager. My career has given me the experience and skills in problem solving, formulating budgets, good communication, and the ability to work with people. I will work diligently with other councilors and all tribal citizens to move this tribe in a positive direction, we we all will be able to realize the rewards of a financially sound enterprise and continue our legacy for our children.

I will work to bring back trust in our government, and return pride back into our membership. I will be a valuable contributor to collective thinking and exercise positive leadership. I will provide resolutions on issues and problems that impact the quality of life for all tribal citizens. I will make it a priority to manage tribal funds in a responsible manner and make smart decisions to help us remain competitive and able to adapt to an unforgiving economy. I will know what we can accomplish, what needs to be done, and always prepared to argue my case.

Three issues that I intend to bring to the table will be Tribal Hiring (Preference), the Constitution (finalization/completerion), and business (what we will do to build a diverse business culture). These issues have been on the table far too long and have been the concerns of many Tribal Citizens. I will not use this opportunity to finish these issues without positive results. It will be my obligation to the Tribal Citizens to be responsive to their concerns and act on their wishes. The hardest test for a leader challenges their character as much as their skills. As your Councilor I will grow by meeting these challengers and bring a fresh new perspective to the table.

Thank you for your support.

Sandy Mezeske

Aanii,

First let me say it has been a wonderful, frustrating, exciting, educating, and very fulfilling time during my year on Tribal Council. I've had the opportunity to work side by side with eight other people and trust me we don't always see eye to eye. We have managed to accomplish numerous things during my time on Council but still have much to do. Please note I said "we" because one Councilor cannot accomplish anything alone, only united will we thrive and build a great nation. Below I've listed some things I will work on if you cast your vote for me in the upcoming election.

- Tribal Constitution, we need to know what citizens believe should be changed. Our suggestion is we hold three consecutive weekend meetings, listen to all recommendations, compile the information and move forward.
- Muskegon Casino, We need to become united and let our voices be heard.
- New Housing, to keep moving forward and continue building affordable homes for our Tribal Citizens and their families.
- Business Development, the Tribe needs to look at buying or building other businesses.
- Tribal Council should develop a Communication strategy; I would recommend setting up an 800 number so questions can be answered. We could respond to the questions in the Currents so everyone has the opportunity to know what is going on. The caller would not be required to leave a name and the question(s) could be posed for any branch of the government
- Develop Tribal Council Operation Guidelines, that way we are held accountable for our time and attendance.

I don't have all the answers but what I do have is commitment and dedication to and for our Tribe.

Any questions or concerns please contact me at my cell-231-239-1808 or call 231-398-6854.

Joseph Riley Sr.

Aanii,

Don't let this cold weather get you down. There are exciting things happening in the Nine County Area. February 11 will see the Primary election and some new names will go up on the ballot. It may seem like a hard choice - when all we are to you is a name, but let me use this opportunity to have you get to know me better - maybe even win your trust.

My name is Joe Riley Sr., I grew up in Muskegon. So did my Mother, a full blooded member of the Ottawa Tribe. I have seven siblings still living; 3 sons and 6 grandchildren. My mother raised us with strong Christian values and I strive daily to put them into practice in my life. It is my desire to serve you with the utmost in honesty and integrity. I can bring new perspective and fresh ideas to the Council at a time when our economy leaves a lot of us wondering what the future holds.

Please e-mail me with your questions, suggestions or ideas at aanijriley@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Joe Riley Sr.

Edward Tyler



Hello, my name is Edward Tyler.

I am a candidate for the Office of Tribal Council representing the Nine County District for LRBOI. My hometown is Ludington where I lived with my family and graduated in 1961. After enlisting in the U.S. Air Force I worked as an air craft mechanic in the states and served overseas on Okinawa and Viet Nam. I retired in 2007 with 30 plus years working as a mechanical designer. My wife and I have been married 39 years; have three children and five grandchildren.

I have observed three critical qualifications that need to be considered when selecting leadership for LRBOI. They are: honesty, integrity, and a very strong work ethic. If elected every effort will be put forth in applying these ethics in the way I conduct myself, make decisions and interact with Tribal Council, and most importantly when relating to all tribal members.

My preceding generation has passed away without ever observing what our tribe has accomplished. I trust they would be proud of the progress made at LRBOI.

We must continue with honorable, dependable, unwavering moral leadership.

I ask for your vote as I seek to serve you.

Peggy J. Vriesman



Aanii

My name is Peggy J. Vriesman; I am seeking a seat for Tribal Council to represent the Nine County district. I hold an Associate's Degree from West Shore Community College in Marketing/Management and will graduate from Ferris State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in May 2011. Previously I worked at Little River Casino for over 5 years in the Accounting and Marketing departments. Since 2008 I have worked in the tribal government in the Natural Resources Department. I was elected to the Election Board in 2005/2006 term and currently hold a position on the Commerce Commission.

My platform is multi-dimensional:

- 1) Communication must be increased
- 2) All decisions must be made openly with the interest of the Tribe first
- 3) Respect needs to be given for all
- 4) Develop a Leadership plan to lead by example.
- 5) Develop the Muskegon property to generate revenue
- 6) Develop programs at the Casino that ensures tribal preference is followed and is fair

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, I am available by email voteforpeggy@yahoo.com.

If I am elected as your tribal council representative the interest of the tribe will be first. I look forward to working with all tribal citizens in making the future for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians great.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miigwech

Robert J. Whiteloon



Dear Tribal Citizens;

By the guidelines, as a candidate, I was asked to respond to these question:

“What are your qualifications for the office you seek”.

I been on council for this last term for 9 county. I learn a lot on what has to be done in voting for the best value, for the tribal citizens.

“Why do you want to be elected”.

I want to be re elected to serve all the tribal citizens. To work for Self-Governance by exercising our sovereign rights, Indian gaming, and I am on your government task force to be on to complete. To be involved with our work shops. To work with others by being professional. To seek solutions to problems that do come up.

I thank you and I ask for your support so I can with professionalism and effectiveness, support all members if elected on tribal council.

Thank you,

Robert “Bob” Whiteloon

Cell Phone: 1-231-794-8954

E-mail: whiteloonr@yahoo.com

Office of Tribal Council - At large

Kimberly Alexander

Thank you Tribal Citizens for letting me take the time to introduce myself . My name is Kimberly Marie Alexander. My native name is No-Din-Ainz which means Calming Breeze. I originate from the Bear Clan. My great-great-grandparents are Moses and Katherine (Skimhorn-Green) Antoine.

My qualifications for this office include my experience serving the Tribe for over a decade. I have served as the Enrollment Director where I prepared monthly reports and submit them to the BIA for accountability and submitted a yearly budget. I also worked in the Tribal Accounting Department as a file clerk until getting elected on Tribal Council in 2005.

I was on Tribal Council for a 4 year term. During my term as a Tribal Councilor I gained knowledge in approving Budgets and Audits. In addition there are many accomplishments that I am proud of from my time on council. These include legislation that I sponsored which has allowed tribal elders to obtain supplemental health insurance. I also worked with tribal council to bring the per-cap plan to the membership.

I would like to be your elected representative so that I can strive to expand our community and stop frivolous spending. I will hold Department heads responsible for being on budget. I will support continued tribal sovereignty through protecting members hunting, fishing, and gathering rights without state interference. I will push for Outlying citizens to have more opportunities to access tribal programs and that future programs be fair to all tribal citizens, not just those in the 9-county.

I look forward to be your candidate for Tribal Council of The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. I promise to serve the Outlying citizens with dedication ,being responsive to their unique needs.

I am proud to run to be your voice for the Outlying Representative.
Kimberly Alexander



Loretta Beccaria

I am seeking re-election for the At-Large Seat on Tribal Council and ask for your support.

Accomplishments:

- PER-CAPITA PAYMENTS – Worked on and supported this Resolution.
- CASINO EXPANSION – Member of the Task Force that completed this expansion project.
- TRIBAL HOUSING – Active participant of the Task Force which increased Tribal Housing from 17 to 45 units.
- GAS STATION – Member of the Task Force that accomplished its construction in 45 days.
- TRIBAL OWNED BUSINESS – Member of the Committee that turned the Grant Program into a Low Interest Loan Program that works.
- COMMUNITY CENTER - Member of the Task Force that accomplished the project. Previously, grant money and plans laid dormant for years.
- ATTENDANCE – My record speaks for itself. I believe 40 hours of pay, requires 40 hours of office time, this is critical. Workshops are important; this is where pending legislation is worked on.
- COMMUNICATION – Always return calls and answer questions asked of me.

Work in progress:

- CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS – Ongoing project for 3 ½ years. As of December, is complete and ready for Council vote. The next step is presentation to the Membership, ultimately to the Department of Interior for an Election.
- TRIBAL PREFERENCE – In the final stages and ready for a vote.
- GAMING ORDINANCE – Has been sent to the Interior and waiting for a reply. This will allow more members to be employed at the Casino.
- SELF-GOVERNANCE – New project that will require time and effort by all Officials to maximize Federal benefits for our Tribe.

Have been a committed Council Member and will continue to be. Vital resolutions could be passed in a timely manner if Council had 100% participation every day. There is much to do in such a short time, given the election cycles.

Shannon Paul Crampton

I am running for the At Large seat on council and am very aware of the problems that exist in our tribe as well as those that exist outside it. I served on council from 2005 to 2009 and am very proud of my voting record and would ask that every voting member review those votes and minutes for they contain a wealth of knowledge not only about myself but of many of those asking for your vote in this election. I am also proud to be one of the council members that not only ran on a per-cap promise but actually delivered it 40% and 50%

Qualifications

For the past two years I have been studying law tribal and state and hope to obtain my license in the near future. While on council I served as legislative liaison and logged more reports than any other liaison before me in almost a decade. I became the first native american in the history of the state to address the michigan county commissioners assembly and along with Lee Spague and Bill Brooks first addressed the issue of getting the tribes name on a list to restore the national forests land to native hands in 2005 something others now claim as their own initiative. I have a sound business management background and when right never back down

My reason for seeking office is to restore fairness, honesty and equality and sense of belonging to every person in this tribe so when you say "I am little river band" you can do so with a sense of pride.

Cynthia A Champagne

I would like to offer warm greetings to my fellow Tribal Citizens. I have decided to run at this time to try and make a difference. I am grateful to all of our elected officials who served and help move this Tribe forward.

I am a proud Anishinaabe woman who owes my pride in who I am to my grandparents. . I come from two strong and proud family lines. On my Grandmother side we descended from the Antoine and on my Grandfather side we descended from the Pete (Paw-Saw-Maw-Baw-No/Payawmesay). My grandfather felt that everyone had a purpose on this earth and was very tolerant of others short comings. From him I learned not to see color, only to see an individual and where they came from and what they stood for. In our culture I always felt that my Grandfather would have been a story teller, since so much of what I learned about our culture came from his stories about our people. My grandmother was a strong, quiet anishinaabe woman.

I moved to Manistee from Wisconsin in July of 2000. Thanks to my Grandfather I felt like I had been here before. I made a conscience decision to give up a good and lucrative job with a Fortune 500 company to try and help our people. I spent almost 30 years in Corporate America working in Human Resources and the last 10 years I have spent working at our Tribal Casino in Human Resources. Since coming to Manistee I have served on Binojeeuk Commission (helps our families and our children). I have been fortunate to meet so many nice fellow Tribal Citizens and feel it would be an honor to serve them. I may be reached at (414) 248-6074 after 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Tammy S. Bowen- Election Board Candidate

My name is Tammy S. Bowen and I am running for one of the elected positions on the Election Board. In August 2010, I was appointed by the Tribal Council to serve the vacant seat on the Election Board that will be ending in April. It has been a great learning experience and I have enjoyed serving on this board.

I am the daughter of John and Theresa Koon and the granddaughter of the late James and Beatrice Koon. I have two daughters Angela and Autumn Carter. I have been a resident of Manistee all my life. I have worked for the tribe since 1995 in many different capacities but have worked in the Accounting Department for the last ten years as the Grants Management Administrator.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and have many hobbies that keep me very busy.

Corey A. Wells -Special Election Board

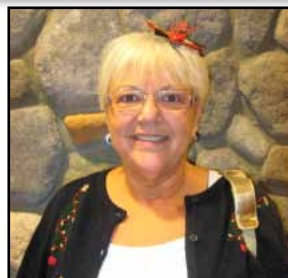
Hello, my name is Corey A. Wells, and i am running for a position on the Election Board. I Currently live in Manistee with my wife and my daughter. I joined the Army right out of high school, and served as active duty infantry for 5 years before getting out to settle down and start a family. I current work for the tribal government at the casino. I believe it is every tribal citizens duty to serve their tribe and try to contribute as much to it as they can.

I would like the opportunity apply the skill sets I learned in the army; dedication to duty, and a hard work ethic, to continue to serve the tribe.

Thank You

Corey A Wells

Carole Gibner- Special Election Board Candidate



What are your qualifications for the office you seek?

I am dependable so attending meetings would not be a problem and I follow thru w/my commitment, I am well organized. Since I am retired, I would be available at all times for questions and concerns. I have worked for the tribal government as an administrative assistant in the Commerce Dept. I am very well organized, honest, positive and dedicated to the tribe. I would be available on a full time basis for questions and concerns regarding the election board. I have been a tribal citizen for four years, an elder and enjoy meeting other citizens and helping the tribe by volunteering at various events. I am currently on the Binojeeuk Commission. I hope you will give me consideration when you vote.

Why do you want to be elected?

I enjoy working with people, to help with my tribe would be an honor. I have meet many citizens in the last year and feel most would be comfortable with me for questions and concerns. I just want to give back to the tribe.

Appellate Court Judge

Berni Carlson

Aannii,

My name is Berni Carlson and I am running for the office of Appellate Court Judge. I am married, have four Beautiful children, and live in Muskegon. I am a licensed nurse and work for an incredible nursing agency, caring for ventilator dependent, quadriplegic patients.

Some of you may remember me, as I served our Tribe on the Election board as the Secretary, 2005-2009. It was an Honor to serve as an Election Board Officer. As history of my term in office shows, I took my job seriously and always upheld the Regulations, Constitution, and Integrity of the Board.

This past year, I have had the honor and **experience** of serving our Tribe, as a visiting Appellate Court Justice. I have also had experience representing some of my patients before the Muskegon County Court, regarding their medical benefits, a witness in a medical malpractice case, as well as a juror in several cases.

I enjoy being able to serve our people, and be involved in our culture and heritage. Creator has given me an opportunity to help our tribe, and make a difference in the lives of anyone coming before our Court. Making sound decisions that follow Our Constitution and solidify Our Sovereign Rights are imperative for our Tribe to succeed. I believe I have those qualifications.

I would be most gracious, for the opportunity to work for Our People, as an Appellate Court Justice. I will strive to up hold the highest of standards, while serving Our people as your Appellate Court Judge.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and vote.

I would be Honored to represent the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Sincerely, Berni L Carlson

No article was submitted to the Currents for the following candidates

Patricia "Pat" Ruiter- 9 County

Bill Willis - Appellate Court Judge

Tracy Frees- Office of Election Board

Kimberly Crampton (Kequom)-Appellate Court Judge

OVERVIEW OF TRIBAL LEADER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA

President Obama hosted a historic meeting at the White House on December 15, 2010, with 12 tribal leaders representing the geographic diversity of Indian Country. The meeting commenced at 4:30pm and lasted for an hour. The President joined the meeting at 5:10pm and stayed until its conclusion at 5:30pm. This draft summary captures the key themes discussed at the meeting.

A commitment to the ongoing relationship

- President Obama noted that his Administration has “respected the government to government relationship” and has been responsive to tribal concerns.
- Chairman Cladoosby of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community thanked the President for keeping his campaign promise to meet with tribal leaders. He noted that it was time to modernize the trust relationship to reflect tribal capacity to self-govern.
- While the President conceded there was still more work to do, many Administration officials emphasized the opportunity presented by the next two years of the Administration (and hopes for the second term).
- The President’s commitment to nation-to-nation engagement was evident in the senior staff that joined the 12 tribal leaders. The President hosted the meeting and was joined by three cabinet secretaries (Health and Human Services, Interior, and Justice), five senior White House staff (including Senior Advisor, Valerie Jarrett), and three senior staff from the agencies.

Indian Country is diverse

- Chairman Black Eagle of the Crow Tribe noted that the regional format of the meeting was a key acknowledgement of the different challenges and opportunities facing tribes throughout the nation.
- President Thomas of Tlingit Haida Central Council noted the uniqueness of Alaska Native communities with only three tribes that own trust land.

Tribal leader priorities

- The tribal leaders presented a range of key priorities including:
 1. Create a Cabinet level position and elevate key officials who work in Indian Country (for example in the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education).
 2. Issue an executive order reaffirming the nation-to-nation relationship. Key features included:
 - a) Recognize the trust obligation and tribes should not be treated as programs
 - b) Amend the tribal consultation executive order to institutionalize the process of consultation, require accountability and measurable progress from the departments, and create a process for dispute resolution
 - c) Ensure regular meetings are held between tribal leaders and the executive branch
 - d) Create an OMB office of Treaty and Trust Responsibility
 3. Sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 4. Create a Presidential Tribal Nations Council



U.S. Endorses the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(December 16th, 2010) Today, at the White House Tribal Nations Conference, President Obama made the historic announcement that the United States has reversed its previous negative vote and now endorses the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In announcing the change in position, President Obama stated... “And as you know, in April, we announced that we were reviewing our position on the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. And today I can announce that the United States is lending its support to this declaration. The aspirations it affirms - including the respect for the institutions and rich cultures of Native peoples - are one we must always seek to fulfill... But I want to be clear. What matters far more than words - what matters far more than any resolution or declaration - are actions to match those words... That’s the standard I expect my administration to be held to.”

The United States is the last of four countries who voted against the Declaration in September 2007 to reverse its vote and to join the international chorus of voices recognizing the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples. Australia, Canada and New Zealand had previously reversed their opposition to the Declaration.

Indigenous peoples world-wide have worked on the Declaration since the late 1970s. The Native American Rights Fund has worked on the Declaration with its client, the National Congress of American Indians, since 1999. The Declaration affirms the collective human rights of Indigenous peoples across a broad range of areas including self-determination, spirituality, land rights, and rights to intellectual property.

(From a press release by the Native American Rights Fund)



Tax-Exempt Quotas
Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

Income Tax Reminder: Per Capita Payments are Taxable

The tribe is obligated to notify you that Per capita payments are subject to federal taxation. Per capita is taxable income and the taxes assessed depend on your income bracket and location. The Tribe will automatically deduct applicable taxes from the per capita payments if they meet the Internal Revenue Service's threshold that would require the withholding. The payments may also be subject to state tax if you do not live in the tax agreement area. All Per capita payments will be reported on the appropriate tax form and mailed to you by Jan. 31st. We encourage you to contact a tax preparer for further tax questions.

Michigan Income Tax Reminder

Per capita payments are subject to state tax if you do not live in the tax agreement area. Per capita payments are includable in household income for Michigan taxpayers filing for property tax and/or home heating credits.

Resident Tribal Members Can File For Annual Sales Tax Refund

If you are a Resident Tribal Member (living within the tax agreement area and registered with the Tax Office) you can receive a sales tax refund from the State of Michigan. There is no need to send in receipts. The refund is based on a percentage of the Resident Tribal Member's income. The Tax Office will be mailing Form 4013 to all Resident Tribal Members by the end of January. Call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 if you are a Resident Tribal Member and do not receive Form 4013 for the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit by the 1st of February.

It's Time to Check your W-4 Status

Income tax time is a good time to check your W-4 withholding amounts. If you owe state or federal income tax on your 2010 return, you may want to reduce your exemptions or have additional tax withheld for 2011. If you're getting a refund, you may want to increase your exemptions.

It's also a good time to check your beneficiary designations and make sure all your important documents are up to date.

Why Pay When You Can Get Your Taxes Done for Free?

More than half of all taxpayers pay a tax preparer to file their tax return. Before using a commercial tax preparer, find out if there is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site nearby that can help you prepare your taxes for free.

If you earn under about \$49,000, you can get free tax filing help through the IRS-sponsored VITA or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. Both programs can provide fast electronic tax filing. Community volunteers receive IRS-approved training to assist individuals with tax returns. Some VITA sites can help you open a bank account if you don't have one. Call 1-800-906-9887 to find the nearest VITA location and its days and hours of operation.

Free Tax Preparation Sites in our Area

There are many free tax preparation sites available to seniors and low-income taxpayers. The Tax Office will maintain a list with contact information for these sites within the nine-county area. Call the Tax Office at extension 6874 if you need help locating a site near you.

2010 VITA Checklist

Getting Help to Prepare your Taxes — What to Bring with You

If you need help completing tax forms, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site near you can help.

Call 1-800-906-9887 to find the nearest location. When you go to a VITA site, or if you choose to go to a commercial tax preparer, be ready.

Take these items with you:

- ☐ Valid picture ID
- ☐ Copy of 2009 tax return (if you have it)
- ☐ Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for you, your spouse and any children born before December 31, 2010. (If available, bring the Social Security cards or ITIN letters to ensure information is copied correctly onto the tax return.)
- ☐ Income documentation including:
 - W-2 Forms from all jobs worked in 2010
 - All 1099 Forms showing other income received in 2010
 - A blank check for direct deposit of your refund (If you don't have a checking account, bring your bank account name, number and the 9-digit American Bankers Association (ABA) routing number. Contact your bank if you need assistance identifying the ABA number.)

If any of the following apply to you, take documentation with you:

- ☐ Child care expenses, including the provider's address and federal ID #
- ☐ Mortgage company statements
- ☐ Adoption expenses
- ☐ Alimony paid or received
- ☐ Any notices received from the IRS or state tax office
- ☐ Property tax bills
- ☐ College tuition and student loan interest statements
- ☐ Additional forms of income such as:
 - Prizes and awards
 - Scholarships and fellowships
 - Lottery/ gambling winnings

If you lost or do not have all of these items, you can still get your taxes prepared. Call the IRS helpline at 1-800-829-1040 to find out what you need to do and how to obtain replacement documents.

Members advertisements

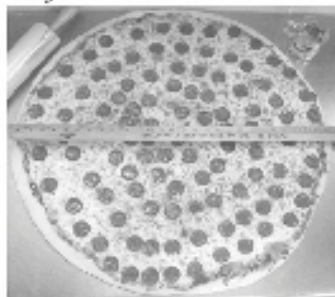
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February 2011 vol.8 Issue 2

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Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is a full service law firm that limits its practice to Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the U.S.



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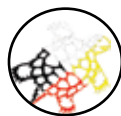
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Government Closes for the following Holidays

- *New Years Day
- *Treaty Recognition Day
- *Memorial Day
- *Independence Day
- *Labor Day
- *Reaffirmation Day (September 21st)
- *Veteran's Day
- *Thanksgiving Day
- *Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- *Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- *Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.

Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



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Mitch Theodore
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Muskegon, Mi. 49442
Office 231-788-2123

**The Warriors Society is
Gathering photographs of members to be
use when their office opens.**

Please send photos of
our Warriors either in
Uniform or in
Civilian dress to
the address below

WARRIORS SOCIETY

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,
Warriors Society,
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking Program



I would like to introduce myself; I am Angie McNally, the new Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program Coordinator for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Family Services Department.

The DV/SA program is funded through the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. As the Program Coordinator, I can provide services to women who are Tribal members or who have children that are Tribal members and are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking. The DV/SA program will serve a nine county area which includes Manistee, Mason, Oceana, Muskegon, Kent, Lake, Wexford, Newaygo, and Ottawa counties.

In my position as the DV/SA Program Coordinator my responsibilities will include assisting domestic violence/

sexual assault survivors in creating and implementing plans to improve safety. In my role as the DV/SA Coordinator I can provide court accompaniment, transportation, group and individual support counseling to survivors as well as assistance in accessing local services and resources. As the DV/SA Coordinator I will advocate for survivors as needed and serve as liaisons to local service providers.

I can meet with clients at the Family Services office located at 1762 US 31 South in Manistee, or in other safe locations when transportation barriers exist for the person being served. Educating the community about LRBOI DV/SA program services and providing safe and respectful support to survivors according to each survivor's goals and values are some of the main aspects of the LRBOI DV/SA Program.

Domestic violence affects each of our lives. It extends to all socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, and genders. If you feel that it has surpassed you, look closely in your family, your workplace, neighborhood or church congregation.

Violence against Native women is a substantial public health problem today. In the largest ever survey of its kind, the 2008 CDC report on health and violence found that 39% of Native women surveyed identified as victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime, a rate higher than any other race or ethnicity surveyed. During a three year span, homicide was the third leading cause of death for Native women. Of the Native women murdered 75% were killed by a family member, an acquaintance, or someone they knew. Lastly, 17% of Alaskan Native and American Indian women will be stalked during their lifetime. (Brenda Hill, SDCADVSA).

All services are confidential, if you or someone you know would like to more about the services that are offered through the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Family Services Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program please feel free to call me, Angie McNally, at 231-398-6723.

Food Distribution Program (FDIPIR) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamp Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDIPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification. In determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income	
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	
Net Monthly Income Standards	
October 1, 2010 & October 1, 2011	
Household Size Income Limits	
1.	\$ 1,045.00
2.	\$ 1,357.00
3.	\$ 1,668.00
4.	\$ 1,991.00
5.	\$ 2,329.00
6.	\$ 2,666.00
7.	\$ 2,978.00
8.	\$ 3,290.00
For each additional member add \$ 312.00	

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.
Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M
Lunch hour is 12:00 1:00
Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson
1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program
Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715

Bargaining Agreement

First ever agreement under Tribal Law

History was made December 21st, when the Little River Casino Resort Board of Directors approved a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the United Steel Workers and the Resort's Security Bargaining Unit that was based solely upon tribal law. Native American nations around the country had their eyes on the situation at Little River because never before has a labor agreement been reached on this basis. The press release announcing the agreement read:

"The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians announced today (December 21st) that a collective bargaining agreement has been reached between the Little River Casino Resort and the United Steelworkers. The agreement is the first to be reached after a union election campaign and collective bargaining process governed solely by tribal law. Security guards voted last Thursday to approve the agreement. The Board of Directors of the Resort subsequently approved it on Monday, December 20th, and the Agreement is effective upon that approval.

"This is proud moment for our Tribe," said Stephen Parsons, Tribal Council Speaker for the Band. "We have worked hard to design a fair law to govern labor relations within our jurisdiction. This agreement shows that tribal sovereignty works."

Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli echoed this sentiment: "This agreement is just another progressive step for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as we accept responsibility for our own affairs and fairly protect the interests of all parties involved."

The Little River Casino Resort operates pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a sweeping federal law enacted by Congress to enable tribes to generate revenues to support tribal government—similar to state lotteries. The Band's law governs labor relations within its public sector.

In 2008, USW representatives, acknowledging the Tribe's existing law, approached Band leaders to say that they had significant support from Resort employees for a union election. The Band's Tribal Council subsequently adopted an election procedure to be overseen by an appointed Neutral Election Official. In October, 2008, Resort security officers elected the union to represent their bargaining unit. Negotiations proceeded under the Band's Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining Law.

"This collective bargaining agreement is the result of significant, hard fought negotiations from both sides of the table," said Tom Davis, General Manager for the Little River Casino Resort. "There were compromises, gains and losses on both sides—that's what a bargaining process is all about."

"This is a mutually beneficial agreement that reflects the importance of tribal sovereignty while providing a mechanism for employees to have a choice of union representation or not," said Ogema Romanelli. "This is truly a historic moment. I appreciate the union's cooperation over the process and the efforts of all who were involved in the negotiation."

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

2011 Annual Goonignebig Tournament

Wenesh pii: Saturday, February 12, 2011

Competition starts promptly at 10:03 am beginning with the youngest age group and will continue in order until done. You **MUST** be on site to compete when your name is called!

Aanii piish: LRBOI Community Center
2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung, Manistee, MI

- ♦ Competitors **MUST** be registered
- ♦ All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times
- ♦ Registration will be open at 8:30 am & close at 9:45 am on February 12, 2011



Everyone is invited to attend and participate. Come enjoy the fun!

Sponsored by: Tribal Historic Preservation Department

By participating, you acknowledge that photographs and/or digital recording may be taken during the Tournament and convey all rights, title, and interest concerning the photographic images and/or digital recording to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. It is further understood that these photographic images and/or digital recordings may be published and/or posted on the internet or tribal website or any other way in which the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians deems necessary. All rights are voluntarily waived to these photographic images and/or digital recordings.



To pre-register, please call
1-888-723-8288, ext.
6895 or email
Vchandler@lrboi.com

Age Categories

1-5	11-17
6-10	18-54
55+	

New Prizes!

- ♦ Longest Throw
- ♦ Oldest Competitor
- ♦ Furthest Traveled Competitor
- ♦ Best Looking Snake Used in Competition

Attention Tribal Member Job Applicants

You might be receiving a card in the mail from the Tribal Human Resources Department in the near future. It will be in regard to a job application that you have on file at the government offices in Manistee. The message will be:

"The application that you submitted will expire this month."

A new application must be filled out for you to be considered for future positions. An application can be found online at www.lrboi.com or picked up at 375 River Street in Manistee, MI.

If you have questions or need to submit a new application, please contact Alyce Giltz at 231.398.6859. The fax number is 231.398.9101 and Alyce's e-mail is agiltz@lrboi.com. The tribal Toll Free Job Hotline is 1.866.556.5660.

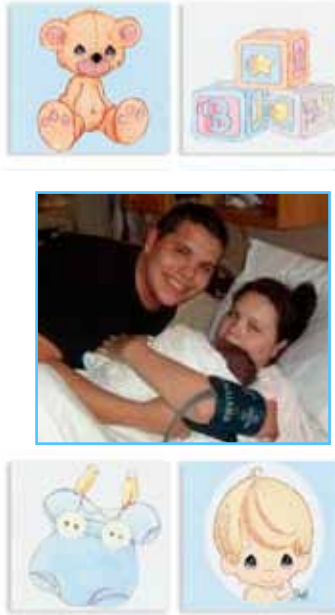
For information about LRBOI Work Force Development, please contact David Hawley at ext. 6842 or e-mail at dhawley@lrboi.com. "



Congratulations to Tony and Amy Romanelli on the birth of their beautiful daughter Ava Grace. She was born on Dec.13th and weighed 7# 14oz and was 20 1/2 in. long. Welcome to our world . Love , Grandpa & Grandma Romanelli



Sunflower Wilson, daughter of Pat and Alta Wilson has just completed her first semester of college at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and has made the Dean's List with a grade point average of 4.0. Congratulations for the great work Sunflower! LRBOI



Congratulations to our daughter Sarah Crampton and Anthony Barrientoz on the birth of their son Waseya Damon Barrientoz. .8lbs 3oz, 21 1/4 inches Waseya's Granparents are Jennifer(Rokos) and Shannon Crampton (Little River) and Jamie Barrientoz and Tara Baily (GTB) Great Grandparents Sally and Larry Robinson. Great Great Grandma Mary L. Rokos He was welcomed home by his Uncle Adrian and many more. Thank you for giving us this "monkey" to love and brag about.. We love you~ Mom and Dad

Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886

February

E-mail: ncross@lrboi.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.		1	2	3	4	5 Elder Committee Mtg
6	Chicken Parmesan Italian veggies Pasta salad Peach cobbler	7	8 Oven Fried Chicken Lima Beans Apple Sherbet Activity: Wii Bowling	9	10 Baked Fish Rice Asparagus Elder Birthday of the Month Celebration!	11
12	13 Smothered Pork Chop Red Potato Corn Fruit crisp	14	15 Hot Beef Sandwich Mashed Potato Green beans Jell-O Activity: Wii Bowling	16	17 Chicken Pot pie Broccoli Cottage cheese Fruit cocktail	18
19	20 Chicken Breast Baked Potato Green beans Pudding	21	22 French dip Potato wedges Peas Strawberry Short-cake Activity: Wii Bowling Activity: Wii Bowling	23	24 Vegetable soup Gilled Cheese on Wheat Fruit Activity Prize BINGO	25
26	27 Taco Bake Spanish Rice Beans Yogurt cream Activity : Nutrition Game	28	Lasagna Broccoli Fruit juice Tapioca Activity: Wii Bowling Activity: Wii Bowling		Pot Roast Red potato Carrots Sugar free Pie	
	Chili Corn Bread Steamed Carrots Pudding		Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.		Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.	



TRIBE COMPLETES DUE CARE OBLIGATIONS AT EAST LAKE

Heavy equipment could be seen moving contaminated earth and bringing in clean fill dirt at the East Lake site, sometimes referred to as the old Manistee Drop Forge property. Most Tribal members now know the property as the Natural Resources Department or “Big Blue.” Working through a US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Grant, the Tribe successfully completed their due care obligations at the site in November 2010. The property has been subject to intense heavy industrial use since the 1880’s, uses that include a lumber saw mill and brine wells, two different chemical companies and a fiberglass plant.

These operations were the source of serious contamination that has accumulated for a hundred years. Chemical analysis of the soil identified levels of volatile organic compounds, lead, mercury, and benzene in concentrations exceeding the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environments Generic Residential Cleanup Criteria. The cleanup, now complete, has eliminated the direct human contact exposure risks on the property. The Natural Resource Department will seed the entire area in the spring. If you have questions concerning the Tribes due care obligations or the Brownfield program, please don’t hesitate to contact Rochelle Rollenhagen, Brownfield Coordinator at the Natural Resources Department.



Currents

You can find this and many other issues at lrboi.com

Megwa Ezhiweback



Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)
February 2011 vol.8 Issue 2



Successful tribal hunters!



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, Michigan 49660

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 195
Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident

We attended the drawing for bear and elk permits. My name was drawn for bear and I was selected as an alternate for elk.

We spent two weeks bear hunting. It was enjoyable and frustrating at the same time. I saw one large cow with two cubs. For a second year in a row I did not fire a shot. It was a joyous occasion when I received a call that I had an elk license for the 3rd season. In early November we went to the area I had drawn. We traveled miles of two track and walked a little, all over two days. Our final result was one elk track. We returned home and promptly started calling guides. We hired two gentlemen from the wolverine area. My season opened December 4 and we arrived on the 3rd. The weather did not cooperate. It was cold and windy. On the third day I finally saw elk. There were four of five of them. They were all bulls. I of course, had a cow permit.

After Six days of hunting we returned home. I needed some rest and the comforts of home.

We returned to Wolverine on December 18. The weather was much nicer with about a foot of snow. On the 19th we tried to cut fresh tracks, to no avail. Late in the morning we checked a corn field and there were fresh elk signs everywhere.

One of the guides followed the fresh tracks behind a fresh stand of pine and soon elk came streaming out about 300 yards away. There were bulls cows and calves, about 30 in all. I held a little high on the lead cow and shot over her back. I then held dead on and made a good shot. The elk went into some pines and laid down. We crept into the pines and I finished her with a neck shot. High fives and

hugs ruled the day. I was elated.

My new rifle and hour at the range had paid off. This was my big game animal. I wish to thank the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the tribal DNR, and biologists for all their help.

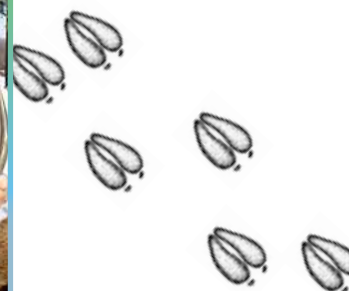
Sincerely,
Connie Walton



LRBOI Member Gerald Guenthardt shot his buck in Standing Rock Sioux Indian Nation in South Dakota



Bob Kunnen shot this Elk on December 5th at 11 a.m. with a 30-06 Savage. Elk weight 335 pounds.



Dale Kunnen shot this 8 point White Tailed Deer on November 27th the biggest one he has ever shot.